JFK Data Points to Oswald: Doctor

New York (AP)—The first private physician to see the long-withheld X-rays taken during the 1963 autopsy of President John F. Kennedy said yesterday that there was no doubt in his mind that the President had been gunned down by a single assailant.

Dr. John K. Lattimer, chairman of the department of urology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, told a news conference that his inspection of the autopsy data removed previous reservations he had about the Warren Commission findings. The Warren Commission concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald fired all the shots that killed Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

Lattimer, who viewed the documents last Friday in the National Archives in Washington, was the first nongovernmental medical specialist given access to them since the Kennedy family's five-year ban on public examination expired last October. The 65 X-rays and photographs were not entered as evidence before the Warren Commission at the family's request. Lattimer, 57, originally a student of Lincoln's assassination, said the documents showed that the initial bullet passed through the President's body at a distinctly downward angle, more than was shown in sketches released by the Warren Commission.

The first bullet would not have killed the President, Lattimer said. However, in the next five seconds, although Kennedy slumped over in the car, "he was still sitting upright and was highly visible." The second and fatal bullet, "shattered his brain and part of his head terribly," Lattimer said. The color photographs were "so devastating, I can understand why the Kennedy family would be reluctant to make them public," he added.

Lattimer said he and his two sons had set up a mockup of the Texas Book Depository at his Michigan farm and practiced rapid firing in order to duplicate Oswald's actions. "Both bullets came . . . from the rear as the Warren Commission said, and I know after my own experiments that Oswald was a perfectly competent marksman," he said.

Some critics of the Warren Commission's findings have suggested that the second bullet was fired by another assailant facing the President's car. Lattimer said there was no evidence of a third bullet but that he believed one had been fired and missed the presidential car.

Burke Marshall, deputy dean of Yale Law School and representative of the Kennedy family, said that Lattimer was the first expert to request permission to view the documents when the moratorium ended last October.

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